

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1 and 10 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for manufacturing an image display device, comprising the steps of:

fixing opposite ends of a plate spacer to a first substrate while disposing the plate spacer on a surface of the first substrate such that a length of the plate spacer is parallel to the surface of the first substrate and such that ~~at least a portion of~~ the plate spacer between the fixed opposite ends is in contact with the surface of the first substrate; and

tightly bonding the first substrate and a second substrate together through the plate spacer while disposing the second substrate to face the first substrate fixed to the plate spacer so that the spacer is arranged in between the first and second substrates,

wherein the method further comprises the step of forming a space between the plate spacer and the surface of the first substrate so that ~~the portion of~~ the plate spacer between the fixed opposite ends previously in contact with the surface of the first substrate is no longer in contact with the surface of the first substrate after the process of fixing the plate spacer to the first substrate and before the process of bonding the first substrate and the second substrate together to form an image display device.

2. (Previously Presented) A method for manufacturing an image display device according to Claim 1, wherein the process of forming a space is performed by deforming the first substrate.

3. (Previously Presented) A method for manufacturing an image display device according to Claim 1, wherein the process of forming a space is performed by an elastic member provided at each end of the plate spacer.

4. (Original) A method for manufacturing an image display device according to Claim 3, wherein the elastic member is made of a shape-memory alloy.

5. (Original) A method for manufacturing an image display device according to Claim 1, wherein in the process of fixing the plate spacer to the first substrate, a tension acting along the length of the plate spacer is loaded on the plate spacer in advance.

Claims 6-9. (Cancelled).

10. (Currently Amended) A method for manufacturing an image display device, comprising the steps of:

providing a first substrate with an electron emission source;

providing a second substrate having imaging means;

fixing opposite ends of a plate spacer to the first substrate while disposing the plate spacer on a surface of the first substrate such that a length of the plate spacer is parallel to a surface of the first substrate and such that ~~at least a portion of~~ the plate spacer between the fixed opposite ends is in contact with the surface of the first substrate;

forming a space between the plate spacer and the surface of the first substrate so that ~~the portion of~~ the plate spacer previously in contact with the surface of the first substrate is no longer in contact with the surface of the first substrate; and

bonding the first substrate, the second substrate and side walls together and forming a vacuum image display device.

11. (Previously Presented) A method for manufacturing an image display device according to Claim 10, wherein the process of forming a space is performed by deforming the first substrate.

12. (Previously Presented) A method for manufacturing an image display device according to Claim 10, wherein the process of forming a space is performed by providing an elastic member at each end of the plate spacer.

13. (Previously Presented) A method for manufacturing an image display device according to Claim 10, wherein the elastic member is made of a shape-memory alloy.

14. (Previously Presented) A method for manufacturing an image display device according to Claim 10, wherein in the process of fixing the plate spacer to the first substrate, a tension acting along the length of the plate spacer is loaded on the plate spacer in advance.